

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are currently pending in the application. The Examiner's indication that all of the claims would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC § 112 second paragraph is acknowledged with appreciation.

DRAWINGS

The following drawing objections were made and have been addressed as follows:

- A. On page 14, lines 3 and 7, reference numeral 10, referred to both a fabric and a web. Numeral 10 has been deleted on page 14, line 7 to overcome this objection.
- B. On page 16, lines 7-9 were indicated as not being accurate relative to the drawing. Specifically, line 142 was indicated as not being illustrated as being off-center. That paragraph has been amended to clarify that the foldline is offset relative to the center of the mouth, and a proposed drawing correction to FIG. 11 to add a reference numeral at the center of the mouth has been added.
- C. On page 16, lines 11-12, reference number 152 referred to both fabric portions and seams. As suggested by the Examiner, the second occurrence of 152 has been changed to 154 on page 16.
- D. Reference numeral 246 on page 18, line 9, was indicated as not being in the drawings. This paragraph has been amended to change reference numeral 246 to reference numeral 260 which corresponds to the drawings.
- E. Reference numeral 250 in FIG. 25 was not in the specification. Accordingly, a reference to this figure has not been added to the specification on page 18, line 9. Also, reference numeral 250 in FIG. 25 was indicated as pointing to inflation means, but in FIG. 26, reference numeral 268, was indicated as being inflation means. A proposed drawing correction for FIG. 25 has been submitted herewith changing numeral 250 to numeral 268. Approval of this drawing change respectfully requested.

SPECIFICATION

The abstract was objected to because the word construction was misspelled. The spelling of this word has now been corrected. In addition, several other spelling errors, including those noted by the Examiner have been corrected.

CLAIMS

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 USC § 112 second paragraph as being indefinite.

A. In Claim 1, the Examiner stated that it was not clear from the disclosure what the additional edge is, nor the cutout adjacent the line of symmetry, nor the oblong opening, nor how the cutout forms a second opening opposite the oblong opening. With respect to Claim 1, the Examiner's attention is directed to FIG. 2. As illustrated in that Figure and in the accompanying disclosure related thereto, the line of symmetry is illustrated at 42. As used in connection with this claim, the "at least one additional edge extending between the first end of said two edges" refers to in that Figure the six edges of the periphery of the blank other than the two edges defining the first and second edges substantially perpendicular to the line of symmetry. In other words, in that Figure they refer to the edges which generally form a shape like the outer periphery of the upper part of a stop sign, for example. With respect to the cutout adjacent to the line of symmetry, in that figure, it is illustrated at 30 with the cutout generally having the shape of a small triangle with a slit extending downward from the apex of the triangle to the first and second edges and along the line of symmetry. In other words, in FIGS 1 and 2, the cutout is generally shaped like a triangular lollipop. With respect to the oblong opening, Examiner's attention is directed to FIG. 5. As noted, FIG. 5 is formed by folding the blank from FIG. 2 along the line of symmetry 42 and seaming along line 46. Therefore, a generally conical structure is formed with the oblong opening forming the open base of the cone structure. The second opening opposite the oblong opening is approximate where the 39 reinforcement has been positioned in forming the mouth opening of the bag. The Examiner's attention is also directed to FIG. 17 which may more clearly illustrate these features showing a mouth and oblong opening, which in this case, has panel 124 attached thereto.

B. The Examiner objected to Claim 3 stating that it was not clear what the second blank forming the oblong closure portion was, and noting that the same objection applied to Claim 8. In Claim 3, the second blank forming the oblong closure portion is directed to

numeral 24 or 26 in FIG. 1. As shown in FIG. 8, this portion is secured to the oblong opening of the blank to form the completed airbag.

C. In Claim 5, the Examiner indicated that it was not clear what the additional four edges were, nor what the cutout adjacent to the line of symmetry was. As referred to with respect to Claim 1, the cutout is illustrated at numeral 30 in FIGS. 1-2, with the cutout in that particular embodiment being in the shape of a triangle and a slit extending out from the apex of the triangle. In this embodiment, the first and second edges extend substantially to the line of symmetry 42, with the four additional edges referring to those extending remote from the portion of the blank adjacent to the cutout and two of which are perpendicular to the line of symmetry 42 and the other of which extend at an angle between the first and second edges and the perpendicular edges. With respect to the objection regarding how the four additional edges define three sides of a perimeter of the oblong opening, this phrase has been deleted from the claim. As noted, with respect to Claim 1, the oblong opening is the large open portion of the bottom of the cone formed by seaming the blank to itself and the second opening opposite the oblong opening refers to the mouth forming portion of the airbag.

D. In Claim 10, the Examiner stated that there was not clear antecedent basis for "the non-joined boundary edges". Claim 10 has been amended to recite a clear antecedent basis for this feature. In this claim, the front fabric panel refers to the panel 24, which is illustrated in FIG. 8 forms the front of the airbag proximate the passenger in the automobile. The Examiner also objected to the use of the word short as being indefinite. This terminology has been deleted from the claim by way of this response.

E. In Claim 11, the Examiner stated it was not clear how the body fabric panel was formed by two mirror image body panel sections, the Examiner's attention is directed to specification page 8, lines 7-9 which describe that an airbag cushion can comprise two separate fabric panels or a single panel with portions which require connection (preferably through the utilization of at least one substantially straight seam). Therefore, that claim describes the situation where, for example, the body panel 12, the line 42 is a seam, as opposed to simply an imaginary line of symmetry.

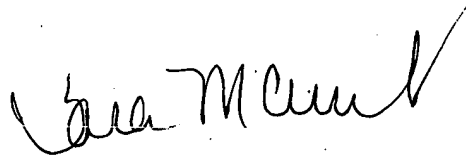
F. With respect to Claim 13, the Examiner stated it was not clear what smaller portions of the fabric body panel are folded over and connect to themselves, as well as to the smaller fabric panels. Examiner stated there was no antecedent basis for "smaller

fabric panels". Currently, Claim 13 has been amended to delete the word smaller as it related to the body fabric panel, and the antecedent for the phrase smaller fabric panels appears in Claim 12, from which claim 13 depends. It is believed this will overcome the Examiner's objection. With respect to how the smaller portions of the body fabric panel are folded over and connected to themselves as well as to the smaller fabric panel, the Examiner's attention is directed to FIG. 3 and 4 where the corners 39, 41 are folded back and over and then seamed to the smaller fabric panel as well as the body panel portion along at seams 35, 37 (see specification page 14, line 17-21).

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner find that any issues remain outstanding following consideration of this Response, he is invited to telephone the undersigned in the interest of resolving such matters in an expedient manner.

Respectfully submitted,



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ANNOTATED MARKED-UP DRAWINGS

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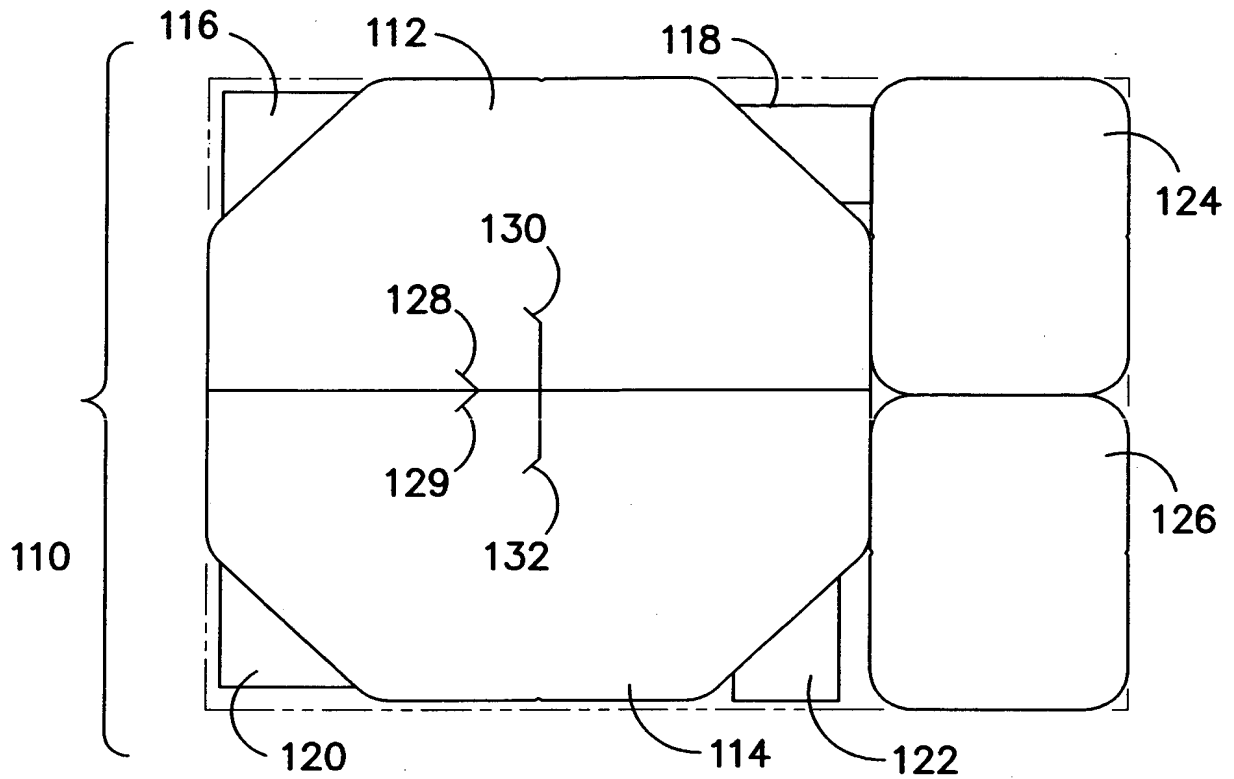


FIG. -10-

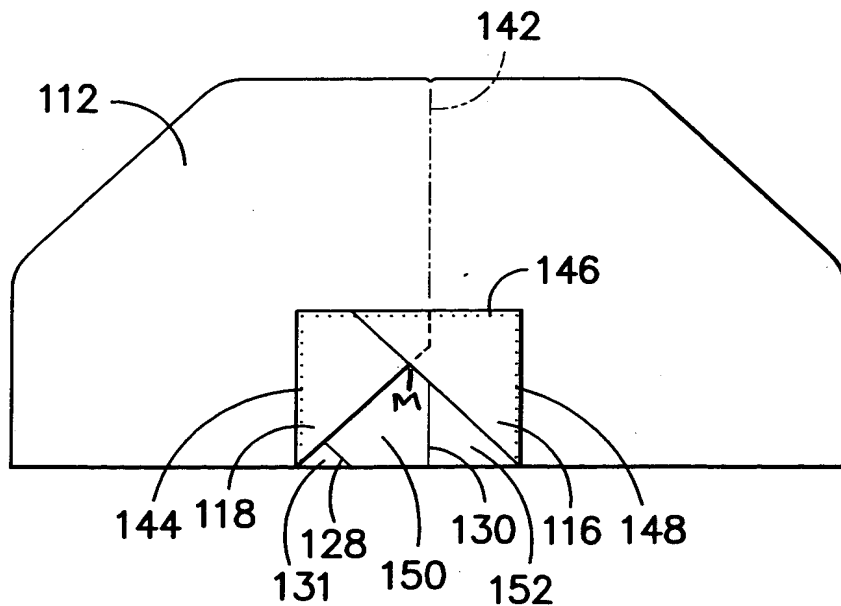


FIG. -11-

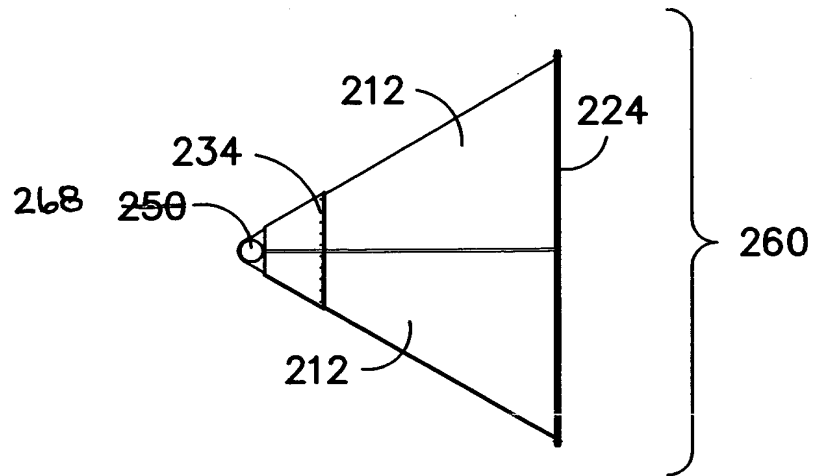


FIG. -25-

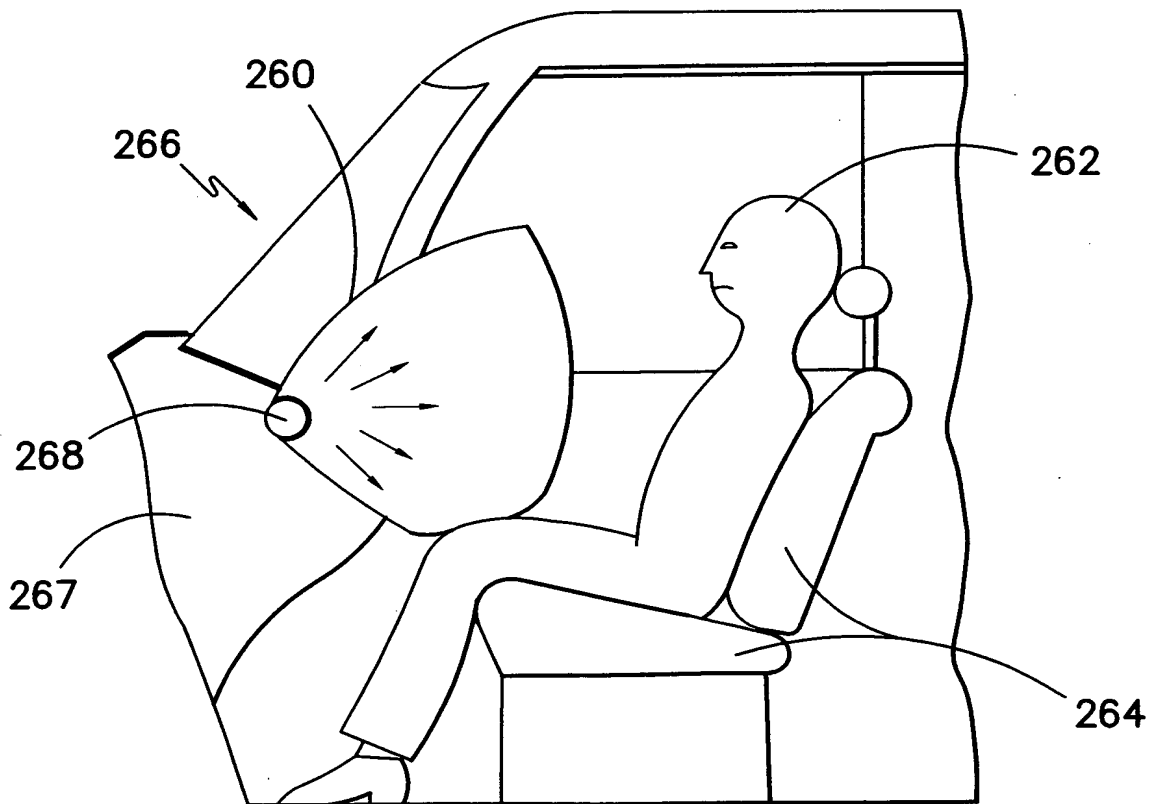


FIG. -26-